

## City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

April 9, 2014 – Minutes Taken by Meera Singh

**Members Present:** Keith Cialino, , Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Michael Orr, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden  
**Members Absent:** Sarah Connor, Jan Dillon-Schaub, Mary Verhage  
**Staff Present:** Meryl Brott, Randi Mail

No public comment.

- **Housekeeping.** The committee approved March minutes. No public comments. Review of followup items from Feb meeting including 4/3 meeting of Furniture SubCom (promote [furniture campaign](#), plan repair café in fall, and mattress research).
- **Market & Tonnage Update.** For March 2014 vs. March 2013, tons recycled: 712 tons, up .4% from 709 tons. Tons disposed\*: 1079 tons down 5.3 % from 1139 tons. \*Tons disposed includes city served trash from ~31,750 households, public schools and city buildings. Doesn't include multi-family buildings served by private haulers, businesses, or universities. DPW will publicize lbs/household/wk in January and June, end of the calendar and fiscal year. Now at 18.3 lbs/HH/wk and goal is 16 for 2020. Baseline year 2008, was 22 lbs/HH/wk.
- **City Program Updates.** Report on 1<sup>st</sup> day of curbside compost pick up on April 7. City Council Ordinance Hearing on April 17 on Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance. Randi will send a revision to the Commissioner. RAC members encouraged to attend to give public testimony. The full RAC voted on an official statement that Keith will share with the City Council: The RAC encourages the Cambridge City Council to consider ordinances that promote reuse and discourage single-use plastic and paper bags. Randi shared some highlights of the recent Sustainable Packaging Coalition conference that she attended, see [www.sustainablepackaging.org](http://www.sustainablepackaging.org).
- **Intro to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).** Overview of EPR, different legislative approaches in terms of framework vs. product specific. Pointed to resources online at the Product Stewardship Institute's webpage including definitions and principles, products, financial and economic impacts and a map of US laws, see [www.productstewardship.us](http://www.productstewardship.us). Committee discussed many products/materials, adding to [Take It Back map](#), will primarily focus on supporting paint legislation which is expected to be introduced in MA.
- **Outreach.** Review of outreach opportunities coming up in April, May & June, and resources including a binder slidebook, [FAQs online](#) and other materials. Upcoming volunteers for events include: May 3 at Pemberton Farms (Keith, Michael & Debby K), May 31 at Fresh Pond Day (Janet & Debby K). More events for volunteering include:
  - 5/15-5/18: Santo Cristo Feast, East Cambridge (varies)
  - 5/17: Cambridge Bicycle Ride, Joan Lorenz Park (9am – 2pm)
  - 5/17: Central Square Fair, University Park (2pm – 8pm)
  - 5/31: Fresh Pond Day, Fresh Pond Reservation (11am-3pm)**
  - 6/3: Household Hazardous Waste Day, Volpe Center (9am – 1pm)
  - 6/10: Lowell Street Park, Family Day (10am – 5pm)
  - 6/14 (rain date 6/21): Hoyt Field, Hoops 'N' Health (10am – 8pm)**
  - 6/22: Day of Portugal Parade & Sidewalk Fair, St. Anthony's Church Yard (1pm – 3pm)
  - 6/22: City Dance Party, Mass. Ave. by City Hall (7-11pm)
- **Identified Action Plan / Decisions**
  - Furniture subcom to discuss and plan Repair Cafe
  - RAC members are encouraged to look at the [Product Stewardship Institute's \(PSI\) website](#).
  - All RAC members are encouraged to review the [FAQ online](#) to prepare for outreach volunteering.
  - Debby K. will help action items between monthly meetings to help keep projects on task.
- **Member Announcements**
  - Rob suggested RAC members talk about/present on different topics at meetings
  - 4/22 – Sustainability in Cambridge Conversation, 3-5pm, Cambridge Innovation Ctr - One Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor.
  - 4/22 – Save That Banana Peel and Eat Your Veggies Free Workshop, 6pm, Cambridge Innovation Ctr - One Broadway,
- Meeting adjourned 9:40.